

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please AMEND claims 1, 12, 14 and 15 and CANCEL claims 7 and 8 in accordance with the following:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A pouch type secondary battery comprising:

an electrode assembly having positive and negative electrode plates with a separator interposed therebetween, and positive and negative electrode terminals extending from the positive and negative electrode plates, respectively;

a pouch casing having a space in which the electrode assembly is housed, wherein the space is to be sealed, a seal portion provided at the periphery of the space, and at least one of the positive and negative electrode terminals exposed to the seal portion; and

at least one opening member disposed at the seal portion and made of a resin material having a lower melting point than the seal portion of the pouch casing,

wherein the thickness of the opening member in a direction perpendicular to the seal portion is less than a half of the width of the seal portion at which the opening member is disposed, and the opening member is arranged under a half of the width of the seal portion at which the opening member is disposed.

2. (ORIGINAL) The pouch type secondary battery according to claim 1, wherein the opening member has a flattened first end, the flattened first end facing the space of the pouch casing.

3. (ORIGINAL) The pouch type secondary battery according to claim 2, wherein the first end is connected to an internal end of the seal portion facing the space of the seal portion at which the opening member is disposed.

4. (ORIGINAL) The pouch type secondary battery according to claim 1, wherein the opening member is polygon shaped.

5. (ORIGINAL) The pouch type secondary battery according to claim 4, wherein the opening member is triangular, wherein one side of a triangle faces an interior side of the seal portion at which the opening member is disposed, and an angle opposite the side is in a range of 30 to 80°.

6. (ORIGINAL) The pouch type secondary battery according to claim 1, wherein the opening member is circular, elliptical or semi-circular.

7-8. (CANCELLED)

9. (ORIGINAL) The pouch type secondary battery according to claim 1, wherein the positive and negative electrode terminals are spaced a predetermined distance apart from each other to be exposed outside the pouch casing via the seal portion, and the opening member is interposed between the positive and negative electrode terminals of the seal portion.

10. (ORIGINAL) The pouch type secondary battery according to claim 1, wherein the pouch casing has an adhesion layer made of a resin material on an internal face of the seal portion, and the opening member is made of a resin material having a lower melting point than a melting point of the adhesion layer.

11. (ORIGINAL) The pouch type secondary battery according to claim 10, wherein the opening member is made of a polyethylene resin material.

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A pouch type secondary battery having a pouch seal portion, comprising:

at least one opening member of the pouch seal portion, the at least one opening member having a triangle shape and comprising a resin material having a lower melting point than a melting point of the pouch seal portion,

wherein the thickness of the opening member in a direction perpendicular to the pouch seal portion is less than a half of the width of the pouch seal portion at which the opening member is disposed, and the opening member is arranged under a half of the width of the pouch seal portion at which the opening member is disposed.

13. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The pouch type secondary battery of claim 12, wherein one side of the triangle shape faces an interior side of the pouch seal portion at which the opening member is disposed, and an angle opposite the side is in a range of 30 to 80°.

14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A pouch type secondary battery including an electrode assembly having positive and negative electrode plates with a separator interposed therebetween, and positive and negative electrode terminals extending from the positive and

negative electrode plates, respectively, the battery comprising:

a casing having an interior in which the electrode assembly is housed;

a seal portion provided at the periphery of the casing to seal the casing, at least one of the positive and negative electrode terminals being exposed to the seal portion; and

a member, disposed at the seal portion, made of a material having a lower melting point than that of the seal portion such that the member melts when a temperature of the interior of the casing increases beyond the melting point of the member material such that the seal portion is unable to seal the casing,

wherein the thickness of the member in a direction perpendicular to the seal portion is less than a half of the width of the seal portion at which the member is disposed, and the member is arranged under a half of the width of the seal portion at which the member is disposed.

15. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A pouch type secondary battery having a pouch seal portion, comprising:

a member of the pouch seal portion, the member having a triangle shape and comprising a resin material having a lower melting point than a melting point of the pouch seal portion such that the member melts when a temperature of the interior of the battery increases beyond the melting point of the member material such that the pouch seal portion is unable to seal the casing,

wherein the thickness of the member in a direction perpendicular to the seal portion is less than a half of the width of the pouch seal portion at which the member is disposed, and the member is arranged under a half of the width of the pouch seal portion at which the member is disposed.